Chapter 16: Soumen, Curry, and a Campfire

TOMORROW, KURURI IS GOING ON HER CLASS CAMPING TRIP.
なぁぁぁ
DID YOU HAVE TO GO ON A TRIP IN PRIMARY SCHOOL TOO?
Staying up and talking all night
Doing group activities all day
3 DAYS AND 2 NIGHTS OF CAMPING
THAT'S A LOT OF PRESSURE FOR KURURI, WHO ISN'T GREAT WITH SOCIAL SITUATIONS.
WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT DINNER?
EH?
LOOKS LIKE SHE ONLY HAS BAD MEMORIES OF THOSE TRIPS, HUH.
Natsuki-chan's in a different class too
.....
IN 5TH GRADE ...
I HAD A FIELD TRIP.
6TH GRADE
WAS CAMP-ING.

SFX PA-POP
WHAT? KURURI?!
I CAN ALWAYS JUST EAT OUT OR BUY FROZEN FOOD. EVEN AN AVERAGE GUY LIKE ME CAN GET BY IN TODAY'S WORLD.
Sh~gh
KUMADUKA
LET'S MAKE CURRY.
THESE TOMATOES WILL GO BAD BEFORE I GET BACK, SO
MOST MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS CARE WAY MORE ABOUT MAKING FRIENDS THAN HOUSEWORK.
I KNOW KURURI ISN'T GREAT AT SOCIALIZING, BUT SHE OUGHT TO TRY HARDER.
COOK-ING = ESCAP-ISM ?!
だだだだ
SFX: BAM BAM BAM

On the first day, everyone brings their own lunch.
WELL, I CAN AT LEAST CALL SUPPORT FOR HER BENTOU.
Why is he calling Setsuko directly?!
WOULD SOMETHING LIKE SOUMEN SUFFICE? IT'S FITTING FOR SUMMER, AND THE WEATHER IS BEGINNING TO CHANGE.
Eh? Kururin's doing soumen for lunch tomorrow?
SOUMEN? CAN YOU REALLY PUT THAT IN A BENTOU?
CAREFULLY BOIL, SOAK, AND DRAIN IT. IF YOU CAN HANDLE THAT MUCH, IT WILL TURN OUT JUST FINE. ALSO, FREEZE THE SOUP IN A PLATIC BOTTLE, SO IT WILL STAY COOL WHEN SHE TAKES IT.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT!
CLICK
ALSO ...
Grandma I want soumen tomorrow too!
WELL, IT WILL WORK ITSELF OUT.
Rolled omelet
Toppings
Frozen soup
Sesame spinach
Octopus wieners

KURURI, I'LL BUY THE VINEGAR, SO DON'T WORRY. HURRY UP AND GO PACK.
I WAS AIMING FOR THIS SALE ...
AND IT'S AT ROCK-BOTTOM PRICE ...
4PM SALE
LIMIT 1 PER PERSON
VINEGAR
98円
118円
12:15 34
WED
ILLUMINATOR
WHAT, ONLY YOU, TAKASUGI-KUN? WERE'S KOSAKA?
APICULTURE EXCURSION IN HOKKAIDO
OHH, THAT'S RIGHT.
KURURI SHOULD BE EATING HER BENTOU ABOUT NOW.
OOH, YOU MADE A SOUMEN BENTOU. I'VE GOT THE SAME THING TODAY!
AHH, SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE TALKING TO SETSUKO ABOUT.

Setsuko-san's Soumen Bentou
Bite-sized portions
Sesame oil coating to prevent sticking
BY LUNCHTIME, THE SOUMEN ALL STARTS TO GET STUCK TOGETHER
BUT AFTER YOU ADD THE SOUP, IT SHOULD BE FINE TO EAT.
SFX: CRUNCH

I WONDER IF THIS IS MAKING KURURI GET LAUGHED AT.
I stuffed the box with so many noodles, there's no room for noodles, and it doesn't look very good
SLURP
MMM, THE SESAME OIL REALLY HITS THE SPOT.
I WONDER IF THIS IS MAKING NATSUKI POPULAR.
SFX: BLURT BLURT

IT'S NOT ILLEGAL FOR HER TO DO A LITTLE HOUSEWORK THAT ISN'T INTERFERING WITH HER STUDIES.
THIS GOES AGAINST CHILD LABOR LAWS.
KURURI'S PRETTY MUCH YOUR HOUSEWIFE. THAT'S NO FAIR, I WANT A WIFE TOO!
YEAH, I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHETHER THIS SITUATION IS REALLY OKAY.
OH BY THE WAY, SETSUKO ASKED IF YOU'D BE "INCLINED TO HAVE DINNER WITH US."
I WOULD, BUT KURURI ALREADY MADE CURRY FOR ME.

IT'S GREAT THAT SHE'S GOOD WITH HOUSE-WORK
AND SHE'S BEEN A REALLY HUGE HELP, BUT...
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE DOESN'T PUT ANY EFFORT
INTO THINGS LIKE MAKING NEW FRIENDS, OR GOING OUT
AND I WONDER IF THAT'S PARTIALLY MY FAULT.
SO? IF YOU JUST DO ALL THE HOUSEWORK, THERE WON'T BE ANY LEFT FOR HER TO DO.
THERE. PROBLEM SOLVED.
.....
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
EVERY FAMILY HAS SOME STRESS TO IT, BIG OR SMALL.
BUT THAT STRESS MAKES THE RAW GEM OF A PERSON'S INDIVID-UALITY.
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THINK.
WHEN I WAS A KID, I FOUGHT WITH SETSUKO WAY TOO MUCH, BUT THAT MADE ME WHO I AM TODAY.
HEH HEH
I GUESS THAT MAKES YOU A 'GEM' THAT'S BEEN LEFT UN-REFINED.
スーパー
スーパー

TO THE RUSH OF COMPET-ITION AND PENNY-PINCH-ING.
I WONDER IF MAYBE KURURI'S ADDICTED
スー
DUN~N
広告の品
ヨツカン
98円
SOLD OUT, HUH? I GUESS I CAN'T REALLY COMPLAIN, SINCE I SHOWED UP TWO HOURS LATE.
YOU JUST NEED TO COOK THE RICE, OKAY?
OH SHOOT. I FORGOT TO START COOKING THE RICE.
SOME-THING TO THINK ABOUT WHILE I EAT THAT CURRY.
IT'S FINE. I'LL FIND SOME-THING.
SO WILL YOU BE OKAY HAVING DINNER ALONE? PAPA'S WITH GRANDMA, AND MITSURU-KUN IS AT THE CLASS CAMP WITH THOSE TWO GIRLS.
THANKS, HAJIME-KUN!
love ya!
OH? COULD THAT BE FAMOUS ASAKO-SAN?

I'VE BEEN TAKING CARE NEVER TO TALK ONE-ON-ONE WITH HIM EVER SINCE THE WATERFALL TRIP.
I messed up
AH.
WAIT, IT'LL BE OKAY IF I JUST ACT NORMALLY, AS A TEACHER, AND AVOID PERSONAL MATTERS.
H-HEY ...
I JUST CAME TO GET A LITTLE SHOPPING DONE.
APP-RECIATE IT.
TAKA-SUGI-SENSEI, YOU'RE REALLY UNLUCKY, HUH?
WHAT?
Lucky?
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO GO THERE?
RIGHT NOW, KOSAKA-SAN IS IN HOKKAIDO, RIGHT?
THE KIDS ARE AWAY AT CAMP. YOU COULD HAVE INVITED HER OVER TONIGHT.
OH.
OHHH!

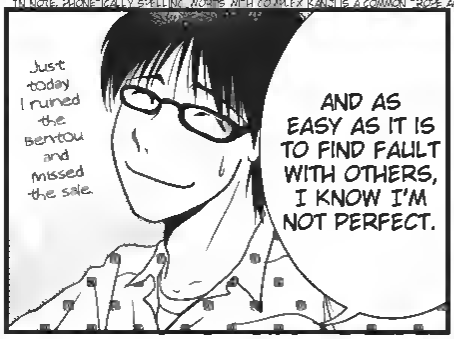
AH! HOLD ON A SEC!
SORRY! FORGET I SAID ANYTHING! LATER!
Ahhhhh
Huh?
UMM ...
UH ...
DO YOU LIKE CURRY?
HE'S NOT A BAD KID.
IT'S MESSY, BUT COME ON IN.
Takasugi
SORRY FOR ASKING YOU TO BRING THE RICE.
NO PROBLEM, THERE'S TOO MUCH FOR ME EAT ALONE.
AND BESIDES ...

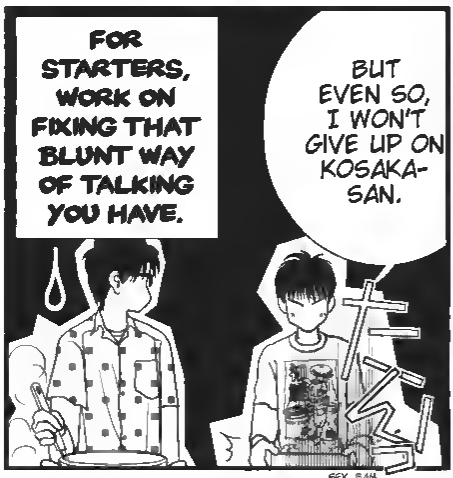
KURURI MADE THIS BEFORE SHE LEFT
BUT THERE'S TOO MUCH FOR ONE PERSON TO EAT.
WISHING FOR KURURI TO OVERCOME HER WEAKNESS
MADE ME THINK ABOUT FACING MY OWN SHORTCOMINGS.
W-W-WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
DOES HE MEAN CHILD SERVICES AND CHILD LABOR ENFORCEMENT ARE GOING TO COME AFTER ME?
YOUR COUSIN'S REALLY DEVOTED TO YOU, HUH?
DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU FEEL UNEASY AT ALL?
SFX: BUH
MITSURU IS THE SON OF DAD'S PREVIOUS WIFE.
HE'S THE ONLY ONE IN OUR FAMILY THAT ISN'T BLOOD-RELATED TO ANY-ONE.
NOW YOU'RE GOING THERE?
HIS MOM DIED, AND HE'S MORE LIKE A COUSIN TO ME THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

EVER SINCE HE JOINED OUR FAMILY, HE'S ALWAYS SMILING.
HE ONLY EVER GETS MAD AS A JOKE.
AND WHEN HE HELPS CUSTOMERS AT THE SHOP, HE JUST GETS BETTER AT PUTTING ON A SMILE.
IS HE JUST AN AIRHEAD, OR IS IT ALL AN ACT?
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME?
-STARE-
HE'S MADE THE HOUSE LIVE-LIER
BUT SOMETHING ABOUT IT JUST MAKES ME FEEL ANXIOUS.
ANXIOUS
KURURI WAS ALSO LIKE THAT WHEN WE FIRST MET.
I WONDER IF
MITSURU WOULDN'T BE LIKE THAT IF HE DIDN'T COME HERE.
GUILT
OR MAYBE SHE'S STILL LIKE THAT?

NICE TO MEET YOU
夜露死苦
MARU MARU MART
WELL, WOULDN'T IT BE EVEN MORE WORRYING IF HE WERE ACTING UP?
YEAH, I WOULDN'T WANT HIM TO BE OUT, MAKING TROUBLE.

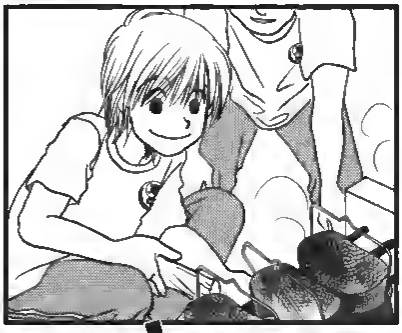
TN NOTE: PHONETICALLY SPELLING "NOBITA" WITH COMPLEX KANJI IS A COMMON TROPE AMONG JAPANESE DELINQUENT GIRL GANGS

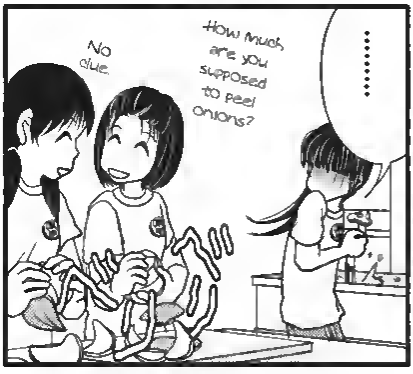




BE CAREFUL NOT TO CUT YOUR-SELVES.
LICIOUS CURRY
IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE LIGHTING THE FIRE, YOU CAN ASK A TEACHER FOR HELP.

Doesn't mind just washing vegetables




No clue.
How much are you supposed to peel onions?
.....

すたたん
SFX: CHOP

Without a peeler, it can't be helped!
Potatoes are so hard to peel!
すぱっ
SFX SLICE
すぱっ
SFX SLICE SLICE
ONIONS ARE 34 YEN, OR 48 AT THE SHOP BY THE STATION.
POTATOES ARE CURRENTLY 35 YEN EACH.
CAN YOU LET ME TRY?
ウロウロウロウロウロ
!
pace pace pace
huh...huh...ha...
U-U-UH-UMM
HMM?
OH, SURE.
THANKS FOR BEFORE

WHOA
SFX: PEELPEELPEELPEEL
SKIM THE WATER BEFORE ADDING THE ROUX!
T-T-T-TOO MUCH! WATER!
SFX: STIRSTIRSTIR
THIS GROUP'S CURRY IS REALLY WELL-MADE!
The consis-tency is perfect
SENSEI, IT WAS ALL TAKASUGI! SHE'S THE CURRY BOSS.
TAKASUGI-SAN WAS INCREDIBLY SKILLED.

KURURIN'S GOTTEN POPULAR!
Cute!
Takasuka! You're red up to your ears!
AHHH
SFX: DUNN
LOOKIN' GOOD, MARU-MIYA!
MARU KUN~
KYAA
FIRST UP, THE CLASS 1 BOYS' "AKB48"!
THERE'S ONLY 5 OF THEM, AND THEY'RE GUYS, BUT FILL IN THE GAPS WITH YOUR IMAGINATION.
SFX: BOOM
HEY EVERY-ONE!
YOU HAVING FUN?
LET'S INTRODUCE TONIGHT'S VOLUNTEER ENTERTAINERS!
MaruMaru Mart's Promotional suit

I still have trouble with crowds...
I WONDER ...
IF HE'S EATEN THE CURRY ALREADY.
OH? YOU MADE CURRY FOR HARUCCHI? MUST BE NICE FOR HIM...
ANYWAY, YOU WERE PRETTY HEARTLESS TODAY!
AS SOON AS I'M GONE, YOU RUN OFF AND GET ALL POPULAR!
NO MORE COOKING WITH OTHER PEOPLE, KUCCHAN!
And I still can't tell what Natsuki's talking about, sometimes...

OY~ CLASS 1 CURRY BOSS, CLASS 2 FIREWOOD BOSS, NO RUNNING OFF ON YOUR OWN!
IF WE HAD A KID LIKE MARUMIYA EVERY YEAR, OUR WORK WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER.
YOU SAID IT.
YOU SPENT THE WHOLE DAY STARING AT THE FIREWOOD! NOT EVEN THE FIRE, JUST THE WOOD!
WHEN DID I BECOME "THE FIREWOOD BOSS"?!
SFX BOOM
HA HA HA HA
BUT IF WE HAD A KID WITH HIS FAMILY BACKGROUND MORE THAN ONCE, WE'D BE SWAMPED WITH ISSUES!
GET BACK TO WORK.
Sensei, get your flashlight out!
Wait. Which river?
WHAT?! WHO?! FROM WHAT CLASS?!
IT WAS TOO DARK, DON'T ASK ME.
SENSEI, I SAW A BOY WALKING DOWN TOWARD THE RIVER BY HIMSELF!

KU RU RIN
LET'S GO. ♡
Doesn't watch much TV and doesn't get the style of humor
???
I made these eyebrows myself!
CLASS 3'S SAKANO-KUN, IMITATING HIS LITTLE SISTER, AYAKO!
あはははは
NEXT UP, THE GIRLS' KENDO CLUB
WITH THEIR DEADLY-
SFX CRASH

どっ
..., AND THAT WAS A DEMONSTATION ON EATING DIRT, BY THE MASTER HIMSELF!

SFX BOOM

The next day, while making pizza
Kururi-chan is popular once again
Take suga! Is this firewood good enough?
Takasugi-san, does this dough look right?
Kururin, cut mine too!
Fire-wood!
AND NOW, TAKE IT AWAY, DEADLY SWORDSWOMEN!
WA HA HA HA HA

WELCOME BACK!
HOW WAS THE CAMP?
TIRED
SO
Tired or sema popular
NO GOOD, HUH?
SPX: NO GOOD SNAP
WELL, LET'S EAT DINNER AND CHEER UP.
I MADE SOUMEN ... PROPER SOUMEN, THIS TIME.
Tempura from the shopping district

SFX. DROOP
I'M SORRY THE BENTOU GOT STUCK TOGETHER. COULD YOU EAT IT AT ALL?
Oh haha, my mom does that all the time too!
Maru-kun, your bentou is so cute!
Ahh, I'll go try soaking it.
Yeah, my mom too!
During summer vacation, she'll boil enough at once for breakfast and lunch.
You have to soak it in water, but it's so refreshing, it's great!
REFRESHED
She totally forgot what to do with the noodles.
Natsuki-chan, your bentou looks so delicious!
SFX. GLUB GLUB

curry
SLURP
That's what
THANKS FOR
BEFORE
she meant by this
5 min later
YOU DIDN'T BUY THE VINEGAR...
!

SO. WHO IS THIS "SETSUHIKO" TO YOU?
UMM...
PLEASE SENSEI, I WANT TO TRUST IN YOU.
IT'S ... COMPLI-CATED ...
OH CRAP. HE FOUND OUT ABOUT THAT?
SENSEI, I HEARD YOU TALKING ON THE PHONE LAST NIGHT.

TN NOTES:

-- REDRAWING SUCKS AND I SUCK AT IT

-- BIG THANKS TO EVERYONE IN THE SCANLATION THREAD THAT HELPED ME OUT, PARTICULARLY ON PG. 7

-- I SPEND TOO MUCH TIME ON THESE SHITTY JOKE PAGES BUT AT LEAST THEY'RE FUN FOR ME TO WORK ON.

-- SHOOT AN EMAIL IF YOU NEED TO YELL AT ME: TRUELOVETRANSLATIONS@GMAIL.COM

-- HAVE A NICE DAY. DO SOME COOL SHIT.

TRUE LOVE TRANSLATIONS